

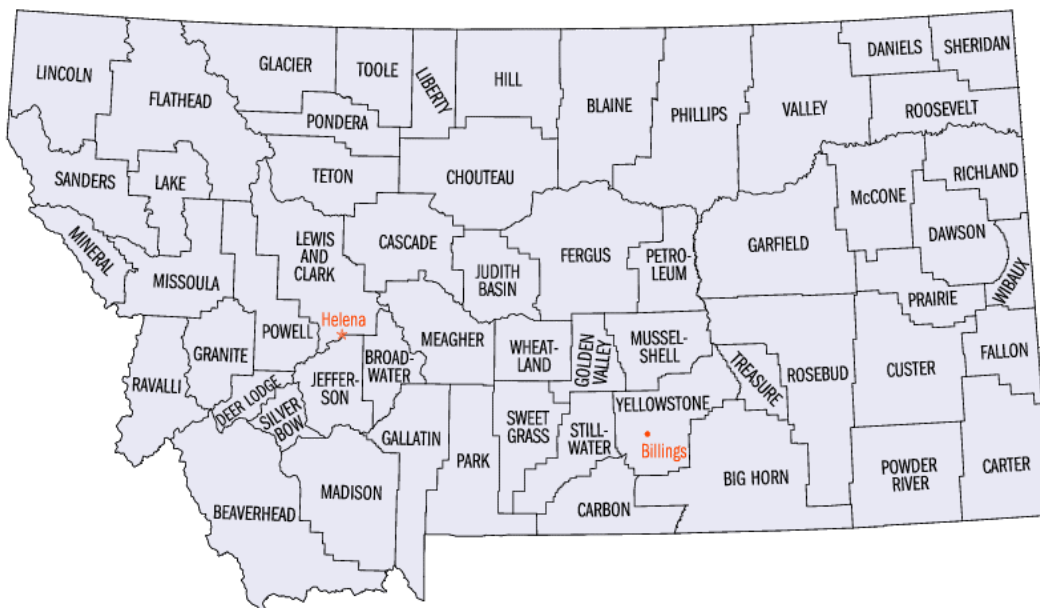
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Billings, Montana

Profile of Drug Indicators

September 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Billings

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 89,847 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity: 89.9% white; 0.5% black; 3.2% American Indian and Alaskan Native; 0.6% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; 0.0% some other race; 1.6% two or more races; 4.2% Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
- The city of Billings is located in Yellowstone County.

Politics²

- Mayor: Charles Tooley
- City Administrator: Dennis M. Taylor
- City Council: Peggie Denney Gaghen (Ward 1); Shirley Girard McDermott (1); Larry Brewster (2); Dave Brown (2); Mark Kennedy (3); Jan Iverson (3); Milton “Mick” Ohnstad (4); Doris Swords Poppler (4); Michael Larson (5); Donald W. Jones (5).
- Police Chief: Ron Tussing

Programs

- Billings Police Department
 - K9 Program³

The Billings Police Department has five K9 units. The highly trained officer and dog teams provide search and control tools that are used for prowler, burglary and drug investigations.
 - C.O.P. Shop Stations- Billings Police Department⁴

C.O.P. Shop Stations are a neighborhood police contact center staffed by volunteers. Citizens are encouraged to use C.O.P. Shop stations to report crimes, suspicious activities, or obtain information and assistance. There are currently three C.O.P. Shop stations in the Billings area. It is estimated that each call followed up on by a C.O.P. Shop volunteer saves approximately 30 minutes of a police officer's time, thus freeing them up to focus on other duties for which they are responsible.

Funding

- FY 2001 SAMHSA Discretionary Funds received in Billings: ⁵
 - Center for Mental Health Services
 - Grantee: Family Support Network; Program: Children’s Services Family Network; FY 2001 Spending: \$59,872; Program Period: 9/30/2001-9/29/2004.
 - Grantee: Yellowstone City/County Health Department; Program: Coalitions for Prevention; FY 2001 Spending: \$200,000; Program Period: 9/30/2000-8/21/2001.

- FY 2001 OJP & Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Grants, Billings:⁶
 - Grantee: County of Yellowstone; Program: Continued Implementation of Youth Intake and Assessment Center and related functions; Amount: \$249,450.
 - Grantee: City of Billings; Program: COPS 3 Percent; Amount: \$898,020.
 - Grantee: Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office; Program: COPS 3 Percent; Amount: \$149,670.
 - Grantee: City of Billings; Program: Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program; Amount: \$90,887.
 - Grantee: County of Yellowstone; Program: State Criminal Alien Assistance Program; Amount: \$20,353.
 - Grantee: County of Yellowstone; Program: Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Programs; Amount: \$20,879.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- There were 880 drug offenses known to law enforcement during 2000 in Billings.⁷

Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, Billings, 1998-2000

	1998	1999	2000
Crime Index	7,550	6,897	6,250
Homicide	1	1	2
Rape	22	32	26
Robbery	59	50	64
Assault	101	112	203
Burglary	694	511	557
Larceny	6,258	5,781	5,013
Motor Vehicle	415	410	385
Drug Offenses	569	686	880

Drugs⁸

- Heroin

Heroin is considered “not very” available in Billings, although it is classified as an emerging problem. A bindle (1 gram) of heroin sells for \$260 and has a purity level ranging from 50-70%. Users often commit burglaries, petty larceny and thefts. Users tend to be between the ages of 13 and 30 and white or American Indian. Whites who reside in the central city and American Indians who tend to live in rural areas are equally likely to use heroin. Most users inject or snort heroin.
- Cocaine

Crack cocaine is considered “somewhat” to “not very” available in the Billings area. A gram of crack cocaine sells for \$125-150 with a purity level ranging from 50-70%. Users tend to be white or American Indian and under 18 years old or between the ages of 18-30. Crack cocaine use has increased, especially among adolescents. Powder cocaine is considered “somewhat” available. It sells for \$100 per gram with a purity level ranging from 50-70%. Burglary and theft are often associated with powder cocaine. Whites or American Indians are the primary user group.

- **Marijuana**
 Marijuana is considered “widely” available in the Billings area. Locally produced commercial grade marijuana is the most common variety found. Mexican commercial grade is the second most common and sinsemilla is the third most common variety found in the area. An ounce of sinsemilla sells for \$100. Many age groups are named as the primary user group. Marijuana users are becoming younger and some initiate use as early as 8 years old. Raves have increased in the area, but they are still generally drug-free, although users tend to smoke marijuana in the car on the way to and from the raves.
- **Methamphetamine**
 Methamphetamine is considered “widely” to “somewhat” available. The number of small, local methamphetamine labs seized in the area has increased. A newly reported adulterant is the white powder preservative used for canning fruit, causing some users become sick. A gram of methamphetamine sells for \$100 with a purity level of 33%. Local methamphetamine sellers are also the manufactures. Novice (those using for less than 1 year before entering treatment) users have increased.
- **Diverted Synthetic Opioids**
 Diverted OxyContin has increased in availability and abuse in the Billings area and is considered to be “widely” to “not very” available. Diverted OxyContin sells for \$40 per 20 milligrams. Theft, burglary, and prostitution are associated with this drug. There has been an increase in the number of novice users. Users tend to be former users of pain pills such as benzodiazepines or other prescription drugs.
- **Club Drugs**
 Club drugs are considered emerging in the Billings area, but are “not very” available. An ecstasy pill sells for \$25. Ecstasy is more commonly sold and used by high school and college students.

Juveniles

- During 2000 in Billings, there were 753 juvenile drug known to law enforcement. ⁹

Juvenile Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, Billings, 1998-2000

	1998	1999	2000
Homicide	2	9	7
Aggravated Assault	103	94	89
Other Crimes Against Persons	32	39	58
Rape	32	33	41
Robbery	30	20	22
Sexual Assault	64	81	74
Simple Assault	1,426	1,395	1,259
Burglary	427	425	340
Arson	81	67	77
Motor Vehicle Theft	198	201	197
Other Property Crimes	29	23	23
Drug Offenses	723	737	753
Drug Paraphernalia	601	760	702
Driving Under the Influence	16	10	17

Enforcement

- As of October 2000, there were 146 total law enforcement personnel employed in Billings, 120 of which were officers.¹⁰
 - Investigations Unit¹¹

The Investigations unit currently has 18 assigned detectives. The division is divided into adult and juvenile investigators and is commanded by a Lieutenant and one Sergeant. The division also contains a City/County Special Investigations Unit (CCSIU) unit that is a combination of detectives and officers on special assignment that concentrate on drug activity and street crimes.

Courts

- As of January 2002, there was one drug court recently implemented and one that was being planned in Billings.¹²

Treatment

- Although treatment clients are most likely to be older than 30, heroin users in their twenties are increasing. Methadone maintenance is still not available in the Billings area.¹³

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² City of Billings Web site: <http://ci.billings.mt.us/>

³ Billings Police Department, K9 Program: <http://www.billingspolice.com/k9program.html>

⁴ Billings Police Department, C.O.P. Shop West: <http://www.billingspolice.com/copshopwest.html>

⁵ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, FY 2001 Formula and Discretionary Grant allotments, South Carolina: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states01/State.htm>

⁶ Montana FY 2001 Office of Justice Programs & Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fy2001grants/map/mt.htm>

⁷ Montana Board of Crime Control, Historical Crime Data, Yellowstone County, 1998-2000: <http://www.mbcc.state.mt.us/crimereport/Default.asp>

⁸ ONDCP, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse*, April 2002:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/2001/index.html>

⁹ Montana Board of Crime Control, Juvenile Crime Analysis 2000:

<http://bccdoj.doj.state.mt.us/sac/juvenal.shtml>

¹⁰ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States 2000*, October 2001: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>

¹¹ Billings Police Department, Investigations: <http://www.billingspolice.com/investigations.html>

¹² OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, January 17, 2002:

<http://www.american.edu/academic.depts/spa/justice/publications/drgchart2k.pdf>

¹³ ONDCP, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse*, April 2002:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/2001/index.html>

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues, contact:

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